INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7   G06F1/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7   G06F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category°	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 2003/208681 A1 (ZHANG ZHENG ET AL) 6 November 2003 (2003-11-06)	1,2, 13-15, 43-46
A	paragraph '0004! paragraph '0011! – paragraph '0037!	3-12, 16-42
X	US 6 185 684 B1 (MALLOY THOMAS J ET AL) 6 February 2001 (2001-02-06)	1,2, 13-15, 43-46
A	column 1, line 40 – column 3, line 43	3-12, 16-42
X	US 6 205 549 B1 (PRAVETZ JAMES D) 20 March 2001 (2001-03-20)	1,2, 13-15, 43-46
A	column 1, line 53 – column 3, line 33	3-12, 16-42

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| X | Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. | | X | Patent family members are listed in annex. |

° Special categories of cited documents :

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international search report
9 February 2005	25/02/2005

| Name and mailing address of the ISA
 European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
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 Anticoli, C |

Form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet) (January 2004)

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 2002/099947 A1 (XEROX CORP) 25 July 2002 (2002-07-25)	1,2, 13-15, 43-46
A	paragraph '0007! – paragraph '0019!	3-12, 16-42
X	US 6 304 715 B1 (ABECASSIS MAX) 16 October 2001 (2001-10-16)	1,16-21, 43-46
Y	column 5, line 58 – line 67	22-30
A	column 6, line 27 – column 7, line 67	2-15, 31-42
	column 9, line 65 – column 10, line 9 column 12, line 12 – line 62 column 16, line 30 – line 60 claims 1,2	
Y	US 2001/055472 A1 (NAKAHARA MASANORI ET AL) 27 December 2001 (2001-12-27)	22-30
A	paragraph '0019! – paragraph '0021!	1-21, 31-43
A	US 6 351 813 B1 (MOONEY DAVID M ET AL) 26 February 2002 (2002-02-26) paragraph '0014! – paragraph '0020!	1-46
A	US 2003/012549 A1 (OHNUMA KENSUKE) 16 January 2003 (2003-01-16) paragraph '0006! – paragraph '0017! paragraph '0056! – paragraph '0091!	16-21
A	US 2003/122966 A1 (MARKMAN MICHAEL J ET AL) 3 July 2003 (2003-07-03) paragraph '0080! – paragraph '0120!	16-30
A	US 2002/033842 A1 (ZETTS JOHN MARK) 21 March 2002 (2002-03-21) paragraph '0010! – paragraph '0069!	16-30

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/JP2004/014996

Box II   Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established In respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
   because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
   because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:

3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
   because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box III   Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this International application, as follows:

        see additional sheet

1. ☒ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.

2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.

3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the Invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest   ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.

                              ☒ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

Form PCT/ISA/210 (continuation of first sheet (2)) (January 2004)

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM   PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. claims: 1-15,31-46

> Judging use permission of metadata provided by a metadata provider to be used in conjunction with a content depending on the origin of the metadata.
> ---

2. claims: 16-21

> Judging use permission of metadata provided by a metadata provider to be used in conjunction with a content depending on the content of the metadata.
> ---

3. claims: 22-30

> Judging revision permission of metadata provided by a metadata provider to be used in conjunction with a content
> ---

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)		Publication date
US 2003208681	A1	06-11-2003	NONE		
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Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)		Publication date
US 2002033842 A1		US	2002034255 A1	21-03-2002
		US	2002035732 A1	21-03-2002
		US	2002048450 A1	25-04-2002

[Received by the International Bureau on 22 April 2005 (22.04.05):
original claims 1, 4-9, 11-15, 22, 23, 25, 36-38 and 43-46 are amended ; original claims
10, 24, 26-35 and 39-42 are cancelled ; other original claims are retained unchanged.]

1.   (Amended) A method for judging use permission of information used by one or more terminal apparatuses which use content provided by a content provider and metadata which is data provided by a metadata provider and supplementing the content, the method comprising:

judging use permission of the metadata based on usage control information regarding use control of the metadata; and

using the metadata in the case where it is judged that the use of the metadata is permitted in said judging,

wherein the usage control information includes first signer identification information identifying a range of a provider of metadata that can be used,

a signature of the metadata provider is included in the metadata,

second signer identification information is included in a public key certificate used for verifying the signature of the metadata, the second signer identification information identifying at least one of the signer of the metadata and the signer of the public key certificate,

in said judging, it is judged whether the metadata use is permitted based on the metadata provider identified in the first signer identification information, the second signer identification information, and the signature verification using the public key certificate, and

the first signer identification information includes information identifying at least one of (i) the signer of the metadata, (ii) the signer of the public key certificate used for the signature verification of the metadata and (iii) no limit.

2.   (Cancelled)

3.   (Cancelled)

4.   (Amended) The method for judging use permission of information according to Claim 1,

5   wherein the one or more terminal apparatuses hold the public key certificate used for the signature verification of the metadata signer, and

in said judging, it is judged that the use of the metadata is permitted in the case where (i) the signature verification of the

10   metadata is successful using the public key certificate held by the one or more terminal apparatuses, and (ii) the subject of the public key certificate corresponds with the identification of the first signer identification information.

15   5.   (Amended) The method for judging use permission of information according to Claim 1,

wherein the one or more terminal apparatuses previously hold third signer identification information uniquely identifying the second signer identification information, and

20   in said judging, it is judged that the use of the metadata is permitted in the case where the third signer identification information corresponds with the second signer identification information.

25   6.   (Amended) The method for judging use permission of information according to Claim 1,

wherein the content includes third signer identification information uniquely identifying the second signer identification information, and

30   in said judging, it is judged that the use of the metadata is permitted in the case where the third signer identification information corresponds with the second signer identification

information.

7.   (Amended) The method for judging use permission of information according to Claim 1,

wherein the metadata is encrypted,

the one or more terminal apparatuses include an encryption key for decrypting the metadata, and hold a second license for using the metadata,

third signer identification information is included in the second license, the third signer identification information uniquely identifying the second signer identification information, and

in said judging, the use of the metadata is permitted in the case where third signer identification information corresponds with the second signer identification information, the third signer identification information uniquely identifying the second signer identification information included in the second license.

8.   (Amended) The method for judging use permission of information according to Claim 1,

wherein the first signer identification information includes third signer identification information uniquely identifying the second signer identification information.

9.   (Amended) The method for judging use permission of information according to Claim 1,

wherein user identification information is included in user metadata generated by a user in the one or more terminal apparatuses.

10.   The method for judging use permission of information according to Claim 9,

wherein for the user metadata, a digital signature is omitted,

and

in said judging, verification of the signature is omitted.

11.   (Amended) The method for judging use permission of
information according to Claim 9,
wherein the user metadata is at least partially encrypted.

12.   (Amended) The method for judging use permission of
information according to Claim 11,
wherein the one or more terminal apparatuses hold secret
information common to the one or more terminal apparatuses
owned by the user, and
the secret information decrypts the user metadata.

13.   (Amended) The method for judging use permission of
information according to Claim 1,
wherein the content is encrypted,
the one or more terminal apparatuses include an encryption
key for decrypting the content, and hold a first license for using the
content, and
the first signer identification information is included in the
first license.

14.   (Amended) The method for judging use permission of
information according to Claim 1,
wherein the content is encrypted, and
the first signer identification information is included in the
encrypted content.

15.   (Amended) The method for judging use permission of
information according to Claim 1,
wherein the metadata is encrypted, and

the first signer identification information includes an encryption key for decrypting the encrypted metadata, and is included in a second license for using the metadata.

5   16.   (Cancelled)

17.   (Cancelled)

18.   (Cancelled)

10

19.   (Cancelled)

20.   (Cancelled)

15   21.   (Cancelled)

22.   (Amended) The method for judging use permission of information according to Claim 1,
            wherein the usage control information includes revision
20   permission information indicating revision permission of meta data, and
            said method for judging use permission of information further includes judging revision permission of metadata based on the revision permission information.

25

23.   (Amended) The method for judging use permission of information according to Claim 22,
            wherein the revision permission information is information identifying whether revision can be permitted or not.

30

24.   The method for judging use permission of information according to Claim 22,

wherein the revision permission information is identification information which uniquely identifies the metadata.

25. (Amended) The method for judging use permission of information according to Claim 23,

wherein the revision permission information is identification information which identifies the provider of the metadata which can be revised, using the first signer identification information.

26. The method for judging use permission of information according to Claim 22,

wherein the revision permission information is either of terminal identification information which uniquely identifies the one or more terminal apparatuses and user identification information which uniquely identifies a user who uses the terminal apparatuses.

27. The method for judging use permission of information according to Claim 22,

wherein the content is encrypted,

the one or more terminal apparatuses include an encryption key for decrypting the content, and hold a first license for using the content, and

the revision permission information is included in the first license.

28. The method for judging use permission of information according to Claim 22,

wherein the content is encrypted,

the one or more terminal apparatuses include an encryption key for decrypting the content, and hold a first license for using the content, and

the revision permission information is included in the content.

29.   The method for judging use permission of information according to Claim 22,

wherein the metadata is encrypted,

the one or more terminal apparatuses include an encryption
5 key for decrypting the metadata, and hold a second license for using the metadata, and

the revision permission information is included in the second license.

10 30.   The method for judging use permission of information according to Claim 22,

wherein the revision permission information is included in the metadata.

15 31.   The method for judging use permission of information according to Claim 1,

wherein the usage control information includes control permission information indicating use permission of user metadata generated by a user in the one or more terminal apparatuses, and
20   in said judging, metadata use permission is judged based on the control permission information.

32.   The method for judging use permission of information according to Claim 31,
25   wherein the content is encrypted,

the one or more terminal apparatuses include an encryption key for decrypting the content, and hold a first license for using the content, and

the control permission information is included in the first
30 license.

33.   The method for judging use permission of information

according to Claim 31,

wherein the content is encrypted,

the one or more terminal apparatuses include an encryption key for decrypting the content, and hold a first license for using the

5   content, and

the control permission information is included in the content.

34.   The method for judging use permission of information according to Claim 1,

10   wherein the usage control information includes moving range specifying information which specifies moving range of user metadata generated by a user in the one or more terminal apparatuses, and

in said judging, metadata use permission is judged based on

15   the moving range specifying information.

35.   The method for judging use permission of information according to Claim 34,

wherein in the case where the moving range specifying

20   information indicates unlimited moving range, the metadata includes user identification information indicating that the metadata is user metadata generated in the one or more terminal apparatuses by a user,

for the user metadata a digital signature is omitted, and

25   in said judging, in the case where the user identification information is included, verification of the signature is omitted.

36.   (Amended) The method for judging use permission of information according to Claim 34,

30   wherein at least a part of the user metadata generated by the user in the one or more terminal apparatuses is encrypted using an encryption key common to the one or more terminal apparatuses

owned by the user, and

in said metadata use permission judging, in the case where the moving range specifying information indicates that the moving range is limited to the one or more terminal apparatuses owned by

5   the user, it is judged that the use of the user metadata is permitted in one or more terminal apparatuses which can decrypt the user metadata.

37.   (Amended) The method for judging use permission of

10 information according to Claim 36,

wherein the encryption key common to the one or more terminal apparatuses is secret information common to the one or more terminal apparatuses owned by the user, and

for the user metadata, at least a part of the user metadata is

15 encrypted using the secret information.

38.   (Amended) The method for judging use permission of information according to Claim 34,

wherein the user metadata is assigned with a digital signature

20 of the one or more terminal apparatuses which have generated the user metadata, and

in said metadata use permission judging, the one or more terminal apparatuses which have generated the user metadata are identified.

25

39.   The method for judging use permission of information according to Claim 34,

wherein the content is encrypted,

the one or more terminal apparatuses include an encryption

30 key for decrypting the content, and hold a first license for using the content, and

the moving range specifying information is included in the

first license.

40.   The method for judging use permission of information according to Claim 34,

5   wherein the content is encrypted,

the one or more terminal apparatuses include an encryption key for decrypting the content, and hold a first license for using the content, and

the moving range specifying information is included in the

10   content.

41.   The method for judging use permission of information according to Claim 34,

wherein the metadata is encrypted,

15   the one or more terminal apparatuses include an encryption key for decrypting the metadata, and hold a second license for using the metadata, and

the revision permission information is included in the second license.

20

42.   The method for judging use permission of information according to Claim 34,

wherein the metadata is encrypted,

the one or more terminal apparatuses include an encryption

25   key for decrypting the metadata, and hold a second license for using the metadata, and

the revision permission information is included in the metadata.

30   43.   (Amended) One or more terminal apparatuses which use content provided by a content provider and metadata which is data provided by a metadata provider and supplementing the content,

the apparatus comprising:

metadata use permission judging unit operable to judge use permission of the metadata based on usage control information regarding use control of the metadata; and

5   use unit operable to use the metadata in the case where in said metadata use permission judging unit, the use of the metadata is permitted,

wherein the usage control information includes first signer identification information identifying a range of a provider of

10   metadata that can be used,

a signature of the metadata provider is included in the metadata,

second signer identification information is included in a public key certificate used for verifying the signature of the metadata, the

15   second signer identification information identifying at least one of the signer of the metadata and the signer of the public key certificate,

in said judging, it is judged whether the metadata use is permitted based on the metadata provider identified in the first

20   signer identification information, the second signer identification information, and the signature verification using the public key certificate, and

the first signer identification information includes information identifying at least one of (i) the signer of the metadata, (ii) the

25   signer of the public key certificate used for the signature verification of the metadata and (iii) no limit.

44.   (Amended) A transmitting apparatus which transmits, to one or more terminal apparatuses, content provided by a content

30   provider and metadata which is data, provided by a metadata provider, supplementing the content, based on a request, the apparatus comprising

a means to transmit usage control information regarding use control of the metadata so as to have the one or more terminal apparatuses judge use permission of the metadata,

wherein the usage control information includes first signer

5   identification information identifying a range of a provider of metadata that can be used,

a signature of the metadata provider is included in the metadata,

second signer identification information is included in a public

10 key certificate used for verifying the signature of the metadata, second signer identification information identifying at least one of the signer of the metadata and the signer of the public key certificate,

in said judging, it is judged whether the metadata use is

15 permitted based on the metadata provider identified in the first signer identification information, the second signer identification information, and the signature verification using the public key certificate, and

the first signer identification information includes information

20 identifying at least one of (i) the signer of the metadata, (ii) the signer of the public key certificate used for the signature verification of the metadata and (iii) no limit.

45.   (Amended) A content distribution system comprising

25   the one or more terminal apparatuses according to Claim 43 and the transmitting apparatus according to Claim 44.

46.   (Amended) A program for judging use permission of information on one or more terminal apparatuses which use content

30 provided by a content provider and metadata which is data provided by a metadata provider and supplementing the content, the program causing a computer to execute the following:

judging use permission of the metadata based on usage control information regarding use control of the metadata; and

using the metadata in the case where in said metadata use permission judging, the use of the metadata is permitted,

5   wherein the usage control information includes first signer identification information identifying a range of a provider of metadata that can be used,

a signature of the metadata provider is included in the metadata,

10   second signer identification information is included in a public key certificate used for verifying the signature of the metadata, the second signer identification information identifying at least one of the signer of the metadata and the signer of the public key certificate,

15   in said judging, it is judged whether the metadata use is permitted based on the metadata provider identified in the first signer identification information, the second signer identification information, and the signature verification using the public key certificate, and

20   the first signer identification information includes information identifying at least one of (i) the signer of the metadata, (ii) the signer of the public key certificate used for the signature verification of the metadata and (iii) no limit.